



**TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ADULT DAY CENTERS
TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**IN SUPPORT OF
THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY
THE ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE CARE PROGRAM**

**HB 6350, An Act Concerning the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015, and other
Provisions Relating to Revenue**

**Submitted
February 22, 2013**

The Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers (CAADC), an organization of 47 adult day centers from across the state of Connecticut, respectfully submits the following testimony in support of restoring the funding to the of the Alzheimer's Respite Care Grant Program and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.

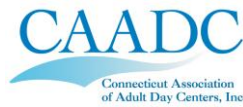
CAADC urges your support of full funding for the Alzheimer's Respite Care Grant Program and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders. The Alzheimer's Respite and Connecticut Home Care Programs are the funding lifelines of our most needy clients and caregivers. While we understand the challenge the Connecticut legislature faces to fairly fund so many vital services and programs, we firmly believe adult day centers and other community based services funded by these programs save Connecticut significant long-term care dollars by meeting the growing needs of Connecticut's elderly and their caregivers in the community and preventing unnecessary and premature placements in skilled nursing facilities. It is estimated by the Department of Social Services that the Home Care Program for Elders alone saved over \$100 million in 2010 as a result of the reduced utilization of nursing facility beds.

We know from prior years of experience that freezes and cost-sharing under these essential funding programs have pushed many clients and their caregivers to eliminate services, created waiting lists and forced many to apply for Medicaid eligibility to receive these necessary respite care services. We have witnessed many of our clients and their caregivers withdraw from adult day services when their grant funding runs out only to hasten their move to more expensive nursing home care.

Our clients have begun to experience the effects of the most recent reductions in necessary services funded through these programs. These reductions are being implemented in response to the Governor's budget rescissions and now the reduced funding is proposed to be annualized throughout this next two year budget cycle. These reductions are affecting both our clients and their caregivers. Caregivers who work full time and rely on the adult day center to provide coverage while they work are unable to meet work obligations if their parent's adult day center days are cut from 5 to 4 days. What do these people do? We encourage you to avoid these unintended outcomes by restoring the funding to these vital programs and supporting adequate funding of home and community based long term services and supports.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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A Quick Cost Comparison

Adult Day Centers versus a la carte Services on the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders

| Adult Day Center Services are a full day of care provided for just \$70.22 per day and include: | A la Carte Services provided at home for \$225.76 per day include: |
|---|---|
| Activities, Companionship, Socialization & Supervision | Companion/homemaker 6-8 hours minimum: \$84.00 |
| Medication Administration by licensed Nurses | Registered Nurse home visit \$108.00 |
| Nutritious Meals including Breakfast, Hot Lunch, Snacks, and continuous encouragement of liquids | Meals on Wheels delivered lunch: \$4.76 |
| Bathing/Showers are available and personal care is provided | Certified Nursing Assistant home visit for 1 hour: \$29.00 |
| Caregiver Support , Information, and Education are readily available | |
| Escorted Transportation is provided to and from the Center satisfying all requirements for Medicare Homebound Status | |
| Assistance in Coordinating and Planning for your long term care needs is available | |
| Opportunities for daily face to face individual consultations, information and referral, support and assistance | |
| \$70.22 per day | \$225.76 per day |

View our video about how wonderful a day can be at a certified adult day center! Go to www.leadingagect.org and click on **Adult Day Centers**